



U.S. Department of Agriculture

Conservation Reserve Program CP41 FWP Flooded Prairie Wetland and CP28 Farmable Wetlands Buffer

Documentation of Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet (Version 2.1 May 2019)

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|---|---------|
| Name of Client: | | Client Phone Number: () _____ - _____ | |
| | | Client email: | |
| Farm Number: | Field Number(s): | Location Description: | State: |
| Tract Number: | | | County: |

***Refer to the *Worksheet Instructions* for guidance on completing a Suitability and Feasibility Determination.**

CP41, FWP Flooded Prairie Wetland Practice Purpose: Restore the functions and values of wetlands that have been subject to the natural overflow of a prairie wetland.

CP28, Farmable Wetland Buffer Practice Purpose: Provide a vegetative buffer around flooded prairie wetland (CP41) to remove sediment, nutrients, and pollutants from impacting the wetland and to provide wildlife habitat for the associated wetland.

Element #1 Site Conditions/Program Requirements

Note: Offer area must be within the Prairie Pothole National CRP Conservation Priority Area (CPA). (See 2-CRP for map of CRP CPA's)

Identify if offer area meets CP41 and CP28 site condition criteria by checking all of the following:

- ☐ Offer area contains a wetland(s) currently devoted to agricultural use that is subject to the natural overflow of a prairie wetland.
- ☐ No single wetland within the offer area is greater than 20 acres, and the total of all wetlands on the tract is not greater than 40 acres.
- ☐ Offer contains a CP28 buffer that is not less than 30 feet in width.
- ☐ Offer contains a CP28 buffer that does not exceed the ratio of 4 acres of CP28 buffer to 1 acre CP41 wetland.

Current Cover Type in Offer Area: _____

Current Land Use in Offer Area: _____

☐ YES – All Site Conditions Referenced Above are Met

☐ NO – Site Conditions Not Met

Element #2 Practice Needs

Is there a resource concern within the offer area that is targeted by CP41 and CP28 per the practice purpose?

*If existing cover is solving the resource concern(s) in the practice purpose, then the determination must be that the CP's are not needed. Reference *Worksheet Instructions* for guidance on CRP contract re-enrollment.

Indicate which NRCS resource concern causes are present within the offer area:

Primary Resource Concern Cause (A minimum of 1 of the following must be present to meet practice need)

- ☐ Water Quality Degradation: Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters
- ☐ Water Quality Degradation: Pesticides transported to surface and ground waters
- ☐ Water Quality Degradation: Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, bio-solids or compost applications
- ☐ Water Quality Degradation: Excessive salts in surface and ground waters
- ☐ Water Quality Degradation: Petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants transported to receiving waters
- ☐ Water Quality Degradation: Excessive sediment in surface waters

Secondary Resource Concern Cause (Not required to be present to meet practice need)

- ☐ Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife: Habitat degradation
- ☐ Excess Water: Flooding

☐ YES – Practice is Needed

☐ NO – Practice Not Needed

Element #3 Practice Feasibility

Will the implementation of CP41 and CP28 solve or address the resource concern(s) listed in the practice purpose?

☐ YES – Practice is Feasible

☐ NO – Practice is Not Feasible

Element #4 Practice Suitability

Are the offered acres suitable for installation of the NRCS conservation practices needed to apply CP41 and CP28?

*The land must be suitable and adapted to the restoration of wetland functions and values. The restoration of wetland hydrology and vegetation is required to the maximum extent possible, as determined by USDA, or suitability not met.

☐ YES – Practice is Suitable

☐ NO – Practice is Not Suitable

Suitability and Feasibility Determination Findings:

☐ The location and size of the offered acres as shown on the CRP-2C, digital imagery/map meet all four elements of the Suitability and Feasibility determination.

☐ The offer **DOES NOT** meet the Suitability and Feasibility requirements. Check the element(s) that were not met.

☐ Site Conditions/Program Requirements

☐ Practice Needs

☐ Practice Feasibility

☐ Practice Suitability

☐ Modification of the offer (either location, size or practice) would result in meeting all four S&F determination elements. See documentation.

Documentation:

Provide information supporting the determination of each element in this section.

Conservation Planner has attached or provided to FSA (check all that applies):

☐ Notes on form NRCS CPA-6

☐ Map

☐ Photo's

☐ Electronic File with GPS Points or GIS Shapefile

☐ Other: _____

Field Visit Completed by: _____ Date: _____ Date returned to FSA: _____

Suitability and Feasibility Determination Completed by: _____

MN Documentation Supplement CCRP Practice
Farmable Wetland Pilot
CP41 Flooded Prairie Wetland
CP28 Farmable Wetland Buffer

When enrolling acres into CP41, practice CP28 is also **required**. The purpose of the practice is to restore the functions and values of wetland that have been subject to the natural overflow of a prairie wetland. Hydrology and vegetation **must** be restored to the maximum extent possible, as determined by USDA.

The maximum acceptable size of any one wetland is 20 contiguous acres. The total of all wetlands on a tract is limited to 40 acres. Associated buffers (CP28) must be a minimum of 30 feet wide. The maximum buffer size may not exceed up to 4 times the size of the eligible wetland.

Only the counties in the Prairie Pothole National CRP CPA are eligible for this CRP practice as shown in Figure 1 (attached). Eligible sites are defined as:

1. Cropped wetlands which have been manipulated, either entirely or partially, and which meet CRP cropland eligibility requirements
2. The cropland is subject to the natural overflow of a prairie wetland
3. An associated upland buffer is included.

All hydric soils, as identified on the county hydric soils list, which have been cropped and meet CRP requirements are eligible for wetland restoration. For soil complexes that are listed as having hydric soil components an in-field review will determine the extent of each site eligible as a cropped wetland. The following matrix gives general hydric soil criteria, refer to the county hydric soils list for specific information:

| <u>SYMBOL</u> | <u>CRITERIA</u> | <u>TYPICAL LANDSCAPE LOCATION</u> |
|----------------------|------------------------|---|
| 1 | Organic soils | Sites may be depressional or non-depressional (county specific). |
| 2B2, 2B3 | Saturation | Sites typically non-depressional - flats, drainage ways bogs, seeps. May include small depressional inclusions. |
| 3 | Ponded | Sites are depressional. |
| 4 | Flooding | Sites frequently flooded for long - very long duration. |

Hydrology and vegetation must be restored to the maximum extent practical. Use NRCS Practice Standard Wetland Restoration, Code 657 to establish the practice. Cessation of cropping of a “Wetland Cropped Under Natural Conditions” can be considered as restoration only when no other hydrologic manipulation has occurred. Wetland acreage eligibility will be determined independent of USDA wetland determinations or the FWS National Wetland Inventory although these sources should be used as references when determining eligibility. Eligible areas will typically be considered as Farmed Wetlands (FW), Wetlands Farmed under Natural conditions (W) or Prior Converted Cropland (PC).

If the site is “FW” or “PC”, ditch plugs will be installed on surface drains where it is practical to restore wetland basins. All on-site tile lateral lines will be broken or plugged and tile intakes removed. Sites with drainage systems serving upstream neighbors who are not interested in restoration activity will be designed to not impede upstream drainage. Multiple landowner main tile lines, that carry upstream water and that are 8 inches or less in size, will be replaced with non-perforated tile.

When these main tile lines exceed 8 inches the practice designer has the option of leaving these lines alone. When enrolling areas it is important to document the baseline hydrologic conditions prior to restoration. After the CRP contract expires the landowner can manipulate the hydrology only back to the baseline condition.

CP28 buffers are mandatory to the extent where they are possible to be established and the amount is dependent on the amount of wetland eligible to be enrolled. The minimum CP28 buffer for a CP41 is 30 feet. The maximum buffer size may not exceed 4 times the size of the eligible wetland. Buffers cannot contain restored wetlands. Buffer areas must be restored to either a grassland ecosystem or a woodland ecosystem with native shrub/tree cover. NRCS will use soil survey and/or Marschner pre-settlement vegetation maps to identify acceptable buffer vegetation.

Where appropriate, seeding mixes for the wetland zone can be found in the 657 standard. Buffer areas for sites developed under a grassland ecosystem will be seeded according to NRCS Practice Standard Conservation Cover - 327 or Restoration of Declining Habitats - 643. Sites under a woodland ecosystem will use NRCS Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment - 612. When restoring woodland ecosystems, plant hard mast species along with other species suitable for the wet nature of the site.

FIGURE 1: PRAIRIE POTHOLE NATIONAL CRP CPA

